



## Southern Plains Farm Labor

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Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Texas Department of Agriculture

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This report contains the results from the April 2019 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of April. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the January and April 2019 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the April 2019 Farm Labor Survey.

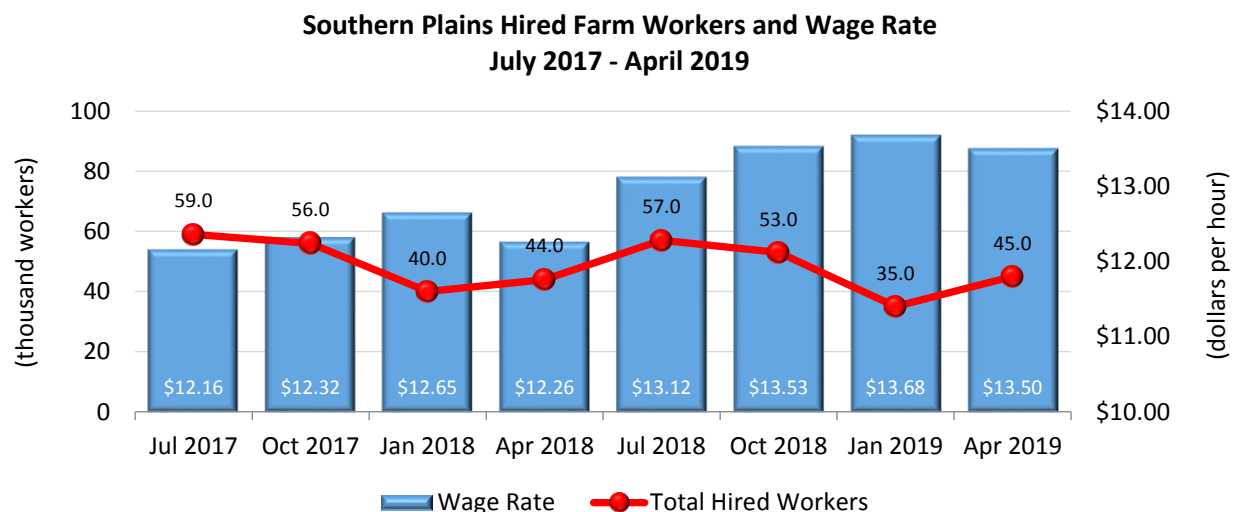
**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 35,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2019, down 13 percent from the January 2018 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 45,000 for the week of April 7-13, 2019, up 2 percent from the April 2018 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2019 reference week averaged \$13.68 per hour, up 8 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2019 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$13.50, 10 percent above the April 2018 wage but down 1 percent from January 2019.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 499,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2019, down 7 percent from the January 2018 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 629,000 for the reference week of April 7-13, 2019, down 3 percent from the April 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.96 per hour during the January 2019 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 39.3 for hired workers during the reference week, up 3 percent from January 2018.

During the April 2019 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.71 per hour, up 7 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from April 2018.



**Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas)**  
**[Excludes agricultural service workers]**

| Farm employment                     | January 7-13,<br>2018 | April 8-14,<br>2018 | July 8-14,<br>2018 | October 7-13,<br>2018 | January 6-12,<br>2019 | April 7-13,<br>2019 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | (1,000)               | (1,000)             | (1,000)            | (1,000)               | (1,000)               | (1,000)             |
| Hired Workers                       |                       |                     |                    |                       |                       |                     |
| 150 days or more .....              | 31                    | 33                  | 42                 | 43                    | 29                    | 32                  |
| 149 days or less .....              | 9                     | 11                  | 15                 | 10                    | 6                     | 13                  |
| Total .....                         | 40                    | 44                  | 57                 | 53                    | 35                    | 45                  |
|                                     | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)        | (hours/week)       | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)        |
| Hours worked by hired workers ..... | 37.3                  | 37.8                | 36.8               | 36.1                  | 39.2                  | 38.8                |
|                                     | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)      | (dollars/hour)     | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)      |
| Wage rate <sup>1</sup>              |                       |                     |                    |                       |                       |                     |
| Field and livestock combined .....  | 12.05                 | 11.75               | 12.30              | 12.70                 | 12.55                 | 12.60               |
| Field .....                         | 11.68                 | 11.40               | 12.33              | 12.67                 | 11.71                 | 12.01               |
| Livestock .....                     | 12.48                 | 12.13               | 12.28              | 12.73                 | 13.18                 | 13.05               |
| All hired workers .....             | 12.65                 | 12.26               | 13.12              | 13.53                 | 13.68                 | 13.50               |

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

**Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States**  
**[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]**

| Farm employment                     | January 7-13,<br>2018 | April 8-14,<br>2018 | July 8-14,<br>2018 | October 7-13,<br>2018 | January 6-12,<br>2019 | April 7-13,<br>2019 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | (1,000)               | (1,000)             | (1,000)            | (1,000)               | (1,000)               | (1,000)             |
| Hired Workers                       |                       |                     |                    |                       |                       |                     |
| 150 days or more .....              | 449                   | 517                 | 585                | 576                   | 425                   | 510                 |
| 149 days or less .....              | 85                    | 131                 | 258                | 208                   | 74                    | 119                 |
| Total .....                         | 534                   | 648                 | 843                | 784                   | 499                   | 629                 |
|                                     | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)        | (hours/week)       | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)        |
| Hours worked by hired workers ..... | 38.0                  | 40.2                | 41.2               | 41.5                  | 39.3                  | 40.7                |
|                                     | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)      | (dollars/hour)     | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)      |
| Wage rate <sup>1</sup>              |                       |                     |                    |                       |                       |                     |
| Field and livestock combined .....  | 12.86                 | 12.74               | 13.48              | 13.64                 | 13.78                 | 13.73               |
| Field .....                         | 12.84                 | 12.72               | 13.58              | 13.74                 | 13.77                 | 13.80               |
| Livestock .....                     | 12.89                 | 12.78               | 13.22              | 13.38                 | 13.80                 | 13.61               |
| All hired workers .....             | 14.08                 | 13.72               | 14.28              | 14.47                 | 14.96                 | 14.71               |

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Link to the full U.S. Farm Labor report: <https://release.nass.usda.gov/reports/fmla0519.pdf>

